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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Establishment of VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten

DATE DISTR. 31 August 1955

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED

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1. In late May 1955, the Minister President of East Germany issued a decree concerning the establishment of VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten. This plant is located on the site of the former VEB Apparate-und Kesselbau in Berlin-Niederschonenhausen, Buchholzerstrasse 62-65. VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten was originally supposed to be named Institute for the Development of Devices and was to have the status of an institute of the East German Academy of Sciences.
2. On 2 May 1955, Dr. Jancke (fnu) of the Academy Institute for Radiation Sources, was charged by the Academy administration with working up a document containing suggestions for the establishment of an institute for the development of devices. The Presidium of the Academy approved this document in mid-May 1955. The document pointed out that, in the past, each Academy institute had had to build those devices for use in scientific research which East German industry could not supply and that, as a result, the devices were seldom of the quality attained in a modern industrial device. For this reason, it was suggested that all development and construction work on special devices for use in research be carried out by a special institute. The institute would be entrusted with the task of designing and constructing devices, in small series, which could be used in experimental work. The devices constructed would be expected to meet the requirements of modern technology in every respect.
3. It was suggested in the document that the following preparatory steps be taken:
 - a. Available literature and data on the general status of similar work in foreign countries, including technical information on devices already in operation in foreign countries, be collected, collated, and evaluated.

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- b. Research work on measurement methodology and on the working out of new experimental procedures be carried out, and the results of this work be made the basis for the development of modern devices.
 - c. On the basis of (a) and (b) above, the development and construction of new devices be undertaken.
4. The following organization for such an institute was suggested:
- a. Main Department Directorate - documentation and collection of data, central planning of development, advising of branch offices (Aus-senstellen), and entertaining of guest scientists.
 - b. Main Department for Science - development of new measuring methods, research work on measurement technology, application of new scientific knowledge, development of construction principles, and finally construction of models of devices.
 - c. Main Department for Technology - design and series construction of research devices, control and norm department, plant acceptance.
 - d. Main Department for Training (Ausbildung) - training of special technical personnel, special courses on new devices, instructions to consumers.
5. The structure of the new institute would be approximately as follows:
- a. Curatorium - the board of directors of the institute; one member of the board of directors to be the chief of the institute.
 - b. Main Department Directorate - directly under the director of the institute, and to be divided into the following:
 - Secretariat
 - Information Department
 - Library
 - Department for Scientific Advice
 - Planning Office
 - Patent Office
 - Patent Department
- The Main Department Directorate would be combined with the administration of the institute but separated from the administration of the scientific and technical sectors.
- c. Main Department for Science - to be divided into laboratories established on the basis of plans made by the Curatorium. Guests from other institutions would be given the opportunity to work on institute projects. Such research work would have to be completed in about two years. This department would function as a household organization. (Haushaltsorganisation) and would have the status of a normal Academy institute.
 - d. Main Department for Technology - to comprise all the producing technical groups of the institute and have a status similar to that of a producing factory. This main department would have under it the following departments:
 - Construction Department (with standardization)
 - Factory Department (central workshops, auxiliary workshops such as treatment of surfaces, annealing, welding, etc.)
 - Control Department (central standards department, control of materials received, control of finished products)
 - e. Main Department for Training - to be established only after the necessary prerequisites had been met. It would consist of sections for training technical personnel (physics engineers, physics laboratory personnel).

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6. The new institute would develop the following devices:
- devices for use with radioactive substances, such as counters, scintillation counters, manipulators, and radiation devices for technology and medicine;
 - high-vacuum devices, such as pumps, measuring devices with regulating apparatus, and leakage detectors;
 - optical devices, such as infrared radiation receivers (Golay cells), five-millimeter mirror spectrometers for long-wave infrared radiation, automatic autochromators, polarization optics for the millimeter range;
 - special lamps, such as spectroscopic radiators, Hg-198 lamps for interferometers, radiators which can be dismantled, and radiators which can be modulated;
 - electronic devices, such as stabilized mains connecting devices (Netzanschlussgeraete), special amplifiers, registering devices, counting devices, and sealers;
 - analytical devices, such as analytical mass spectrometers, chromatographic and electrophoresis devices, and polarographs;
 - automatic devices, such as analog computers, steering devices for scientific purposes, and magnetic amplifiers; and
 - individual devices, such as ultrasonic tools (including US dental equipment) and devices for medial circulation measurement (sic) (optical and electrical).
7. In the document it was suggested that the institute start with the following departments:
- Radioactive manipulators
 - Geiger and scintillation counters
 - Golay cells
 - Fe-arc lamps, Hg-198 lamps
 - Mains connecting devices, special
 - Amplifiers
 - Analog computers
8. On 17 May 1955, a conference between a representative of the East German Academy of Sciences and the plant directorate of VEB Apparate- und Kesselbau (AKB), Berlin-Niederschöenhausen, was held. The topic of discussion was the transfer of the Apparate- und Kesselbau plant site to the Academy for the location of the new institute. The following decisions were reached:
- VEB AKB would begin to move its production equipment immediately to VEB Bergmann-Borsig. The move is to be completed by 1 October 1955, by which time all AKB materials stored at the plant site are to be removed. The Academy is to take legal possession of the plant site on 1 October 1955. By 10 June 1955, the Academy was to hand over to VEB AKB a plan which would establish deadlines and show to what extent the Academy would be able to use the plant site during the third quarter of 1955.
 - On 25 May 1955, a conference between a technician of the Academy and members of the VEB AKB plant directorate was to be held in order to decide which machines should be left in the factory for use by the Academy.
 - The Academy was given a list of VEB AKB personnel and was to decide by 31 May which personnel it would retain at the plant.
9. In late May 1955, the Minister President of East Germany issued a decree ordering the establishment of the planned institute. According to the draft of the decree, however, the installation is to be officially called VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten - Bau von wissenschaftlichen Geraeten und Anlagen (VEB Academy-Workshops- Construction of Scientific Devices and Installations) and is to be directly responsible to the Academy

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of Sciences. The regulations set forth in the statute of 7 August 1952 for centrally controlled plants of nationalized East German industry will govern the new Academy plant.²

10. According to the draft of the ministerial decree, the task of the VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten will be the production of scientific devices and installations of a special nature for use by the East German Academy of Sciences in Berlin, other scientific academies, universities, technical schools, and other scientific installations. VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten is to either construct the devices and installations itself or to supervise their construction by other East German plants. Further, VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten is to be entrusted with the procurement of special materials needed for research purposes and is to supervise the lending out of scientific devices and installations to various interested scientific organizations.
11. The first Production Plan of VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten is to be drawn up for the second half of 1955. By 1 July 1955, VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten is to work out an opening financial balance (Eröffnungsbilanz).

[REDACTED] Comments:

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1. This institute is identical with the planned Central Research Institute [REDACTED]

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2. It is not known whether the structure of VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten will follow the structure proposed. It is also not yet clear whether VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten will function as a VEB plant or as an Academy institute; it is definite, however, that VEB Akademie-Werkstaetten will be directly responsible to the Academy.

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